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CONFIDENTIAL.

(8163.)

F.O.

407

PART V.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

RED SEA LIGHTS.

162

1903.

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Further Correspondence respecting Red Sea Lights.

Part V.

No. 1.

Messrs. Smith, Smith, and Co. to F[illegible] Office.—(Received March 19.)

Sir, 101, *West George Street, Glasgow, March* 18, 1903.

WE understand the construction of the new Red Sea lighthouse was completed some three months ago, and for one we[illegible] ng handed over by the Contractors to the Turkish Government in [illegible] were experimented with every night for a week, and were found to work ad[illegible] Since [illegible] r, they have not been used, and we are not aware of an[illegible] ving been given when they will be lit and kept regularly lighted.

The lights referred to are Jebel Tier, [illegible] Peak, Aber Ail, and Mokla, points requiring particular care in navigation especially [illegible] night, as shoals and rocks abound.

We shall feel very much obliged if you c[illegible] us any information as to when the Turkish Government purpose bringing the [illegible]-mentioned lights into operation. We have asked at the Ottoman Consulate in this city, but no information was forthcoming.

Thanking you in anticipation, and awaiting [illegible] favour of your reply, we are, &c.

(Signed) SMITH, SMITH, AND CO.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 5. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1903.

YOUR despatch No. 07. Commercial.

When are new lights to be put into operation?

No. 3.

Sir N. O'Conor to [illegible] of Lansdowne.—(Received March* 20.)

(No. 17. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Pera, March* 20, 1903.

YOUR telegram No. 5.

Work completed. Working delayed by dispute about amount due. At present, date for lighting uncertain. Will report further arrangements.

* Copy to Board of Trade, March 20, 1903.

No. 4.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Smith, Smith, and Co.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, March* 26, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 18th instant, requesting information as to when the Turkish Government propose bringing the new Red Sea lights into operation, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reports that the work is completed, but that the actual lighting has been delayed owing to a financial dispute. The date for lighting is at present uncertain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 5.

Messrs. Smith, Smith, and Co. to Foreign Office.—(Received March 28.)

Sir, 104, *West George Street, Glasgow, March* 27, 1903.

WITH reference to your letters of the 19th and the 26th instant, we beg to thank you for the information contained therein, and for the trouble you have taken in this matter.

We regret, however, to learn that the date for lighting the lighthouses referred to is still uncertain.

We are, &c.
(Signed) SMITH, SMITH, AND CO.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 7. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1903.

YOUR telegram No. 17, Commercial [of the 20th ultimo]: New Red Sea lights.

Between whom has the dispute arisen? What prospect of settlement? Press for early lighting.

No. 7.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 8. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 6, 1903.

MY telegram No. 7, Commercial: Red Sea lights.

Telegraph answer as soon as possible as to nature of dispute.

No. 8.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April* 7.)

(No. 19. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April* 7, 1903.

RED Sea lights.

Dispute referred to in your telegram, Commercial, of yesterday is the cause of the delay, and is in connection with the cost of construction. I am pressing for immediate lighting.

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* Copy to Board of Trade, April 7, 1903.

No. 9.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April* 14.)

(No. 50. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 7, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 19, Commercial, of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that the delay in putting the four newly-erected lighthouses on the east shore of the Red Sea into operation is caused by a dispute between the Ministry of Marine and the "Administration des Phares" over certain items in the accounts presented by the latter for the construction of the lighthouses.

I am informed that one of the members of the Commission of Inspection appointed by the Turkish Admiralty to take over the lighthouses raised objections to various items, among them being expenses amounting to as much as 350,000 francs for lodging, feeding, and protecting the European workmen in the desolate places where the lighthouses are situated, during the period of construction.

Such, at least, is the version of the matter given by M. Balladur, the Director of the "Administration des Phares." It is probable that there is more behind than this, but the Ministry of Marine has indorsed the objections and has declined to take over the lighthouses until the dispute is settled.

I hesitated at first to take any steps with the Porte which the "Administration des Phares" might have used as a lever to force the Turkish Admiralty to accept their accounts, but I have since been urging on them that in the interests of commerce the lights should be put in operation as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 10.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 56. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 16, 1903.

MR. BLOCK called, by my instructions, on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Grand Vizier on the 13th to again urge that the new lighthouses on the eastern shore of the Red Sea should be put into operation without delay, and from the inclosed Memorandum of his interviews your Lordship will learn the nature of the questions at issue between the Porte and the "Administration des Phares."

According to the Grand Vizier, the original contract price for the lighthouses was £T. 150,000, but the "Administration des Phares" asserts that this sum has been exceeded by some £T. 14,000, and, in addition to this, requires £T. 12,000 per annum for the working expenses, salaries &c. This latter sum the Porte is unable to provide out of the large revenue which it receives from the "Administration des Phares," but which is already wholly absorbed by the interest on an advance of £T. 600,000 made by the Administration during the Greek war and on the sum due for the construction of the four lighthouses. To meet it, the Porte contemplates requesting the Powers interested to consent to a small light toll of 5 paras per ton, which would produce a sum very near the £T. 12,000 required for working expenses. The Porte having formally declared that no extra light dues in respect of those four lights would be levied, I do not think that the demand should be entertained, especially in view of the very heavy dues already paid by British shipping for the light service in Turkey and in Egypt.

I took an opportunity yesterday of speaking to the French Ambassador on the subject. His Excellency said that the statements of the Sublime Porte were not quite accurate, but promised to use his influence with the "Administration des Phares" to induce them to commence lighting at once, leaving the accounts in dispute with the Turkish Government for subsequent settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

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* Copy to Board of Trade, April 17, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

I ASKED the Foreign Minister yesterday what the Porte had decided upon with regard to the lighting of the Red Sea lights.

He said that the matter had been considered at the Council of Ministers, and that he had been instructed by the Grand Vizier to speak to me. The information he had previously given was inaccurate.

The "Administration des Phares" had contracted to build the four lighthouses for £ T. 150,000 at the outside. The Administration, on the [illegible] that all the material came from Europe, now asks for £ T. 164,000. Further [illegible] to pay the salaries of the keepers and the cost of lighting, the Administration asks for £ T. 12,000 per annum. Besides this, the cost of repairs is to fall on the Turkish Government.

Under these circumstances the Porte hopes that the shipping, which will benefit from the lights, will consent to pay a small extra sum per ton, and with that object Ferid Pasha appeals to this Embassy.

Tewfik Pasha told me confidentially a somewhat interesting proposal made by M. le Vicomte de Vaureal, on behalf of the "Administration des Phares," to the Porte, which was to auth[illegible] him to levy [illegible] navigation, and he pr[illegible] pay 5 per cent. of it to the Government, a[illegible] he would [illegible] adhesion of the Powers. The Porte refused this.

I [illegible] to Tewfik Pasha that I saw little advantage [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ac[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ness, who [illegible] the Administr[illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] he h[illegible] that [illegible] not ob[illegible] [illegible] stı[illegible] [illegible] had lent £ T 600,000 to the Ottom[illegible] tim[illegible] [illegible] interest [illegible] per cent. [illegible] fund—and repa[illegible] [illegible] pts in [illegible] hands.

		£ T.
[illegible]	..	51,000 [illegible]
[illegible] £ T. 164,000, say [illegible] per cent.	..	
[illegible] £ T. 12,000 for the cost of maintaining the lights	..	12,000
Making in all an annual sum of ..	..	74,000

Besides the cost of repairs, which the Turkish Government had to pay to the Administrati[illegible] was no margin from the receipts due to the Government, his D[illegible] would pay the £ T. 12,000 per cent. If thi[illegible] is not paid the Admini[illegible] lighthouses now [illegible]

I said t[illegible] too heavy, and were a severe burden on British sh[illegible] [illegible] laration of the Porte that no charge would be made [illegible] lights I had little hope [illegible] d would be accept[illegible] [illegible] suggest that you would submit the matter to the Foreign Office.

[illegible] tonnage pass down and up the Red Sea per annum. A 5 paras a ton this w[illegible] 253,000 paras, or, say, £ T. 12,000, of which British shipping would pay 71 per c[illegible] say £ T. 8,420.

Ferid Pasha adds that if the tax imposed produces more than the £ T. 12,000 required the balance would be returned.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

Constantinople, April 14, 1903.

No. 11.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade.

Foreign Office, April 30, 1903.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 17th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Board of Trade, the accompanying copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* respecting the Red Sea lights, and the desire of the Porte to levy a small light toll, in order to produce the sum necessary for working expenses.

Lord Lansdowne proposes to approve Sir N. O'Conor's attitude in the matter, and to inform him that under no circumstances will His Majesty's Government consent to the levy of additional dues for the lights in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 12.

Merchant Service Guild to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

The Don Chambers, Liverpool, May 2, 1903.

My Lord,

I AM requested by the Guild to approach you upon the subject of the new lights erected in the Red Sea by the Turkish authorities. These lights if continuously exhibited, would undoubtedly be a great boon to the navigators of our mail, passenger, and other ships passing through the Red Sea, but, from a letter received by the Guild from a captain of one of the Peninsular and Oriental steamers it appears that the lights have been displayed and given much satisfaction, but the port officer at Aden has just issued a notice to the effect that they will now be discontinued until further notice.

The practice of exhibiting the lights and then discontinuing them makes the situation more dangerous than the total absence of such lights, for it is calculated to cause grave doubts and anxiety to navigators, who, unaware of the notice that the lights are discontinued, would be very seriously misled.

Accordingly, I am directed to respectfully ask if you would be so kind as to exercise your powerful influence with the Turkish Government, with a view to these lights being regularly displayed, and thus avoid the dangers referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN G. MOORE,
Secretary.

No. 13.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 52. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, May 9, 1903.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 56, Commercial, of the 15th ultimo, I transmit herewith, for your information, copy of correspondence with the Merchant Service Guild with regard to the delay which has arisen in putting into operation the four new lights constructed by the Turkish authorities in the Red Sea.†

I request that you will point out to the Porte the grave risks to which the Guild draw attention, and that you will inform them that if the [illegible] the cause of wrecks a serious responsibility will rest on the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

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* No. 10.

† Nos. 12 and 11.

No. 14.

Foreign Office to the Merchant Service Guild.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 9, 1903.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, and to state that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reports that the delay which has arisen in putting into operation the four new lights erected in the Red Sea by the Turkish authorities is caused by a dispute between the Turkish Ministry of Marine and the "Administration des Phares" as to certain items in the account presented by the latter for the construction of the lights, and by a difficulty in providing funds for the working expenses and for the salaries of the necessary staff.

Sir N. O'Conor has urged upon the Porte the necessity of exhibiting the lights without any further delay, and the French Ambassador at Constantinople has promised to use his influence with the "Administration des Phares" to induce them to commence lighting at once, leaving the accounts in dispute with the Turkish Government for subsequent settlement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 15.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 11, 1903.

Mr. Helder,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if he can state when the four new lighthouses erected by the Turkish Government in the southern portion of the Red Sea, and completed and tested in 1902, are likely to be lighted for the benefit of shipping.

Answer.

His Majesty's Government learn that the delay in putting the four new lighthouses referred to into operation arises from a dispute between the Turkish Ministry of Marine and the "Administration des Phares" over certain items in the account presented by the latter for the construction of the lighthouses. The question of funds for working expenses and for the salaries of the staff is also not yet settled.

His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has represented to the Turkish Government the serious importance of putting the lights into operation at as early a date as possible; and the question will not be lost sight of.

No. 16.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(*Received May* 18.)

Sir,

Board of Trade, May 16, 1903.

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, in which you transmit copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the Red Sea lights and the desire of the Porte to levy a small light toll in order to produce the sum necessary for working expenses.

In reply, I am to request that you will state to the Marquess of Lansdowne that the Board concur in his Lordship's proposal to approve Sir N. O'Conor's attitude in the matter, and to inform him that under no circumstances will His Majesty's Government consent to the levy of additional dues for the lights in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. W. PELHAM.

No. 17.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 59. Commercial.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1903

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 56 of the 16th ultimo, relative to the questions at issue between the Porte and the "Administration des Phares" on the subject of the new lighthouses in the Red Sea.

I approve the attitude taken up by your Excellency in the matter and have to inform you that in no circumstances will His Majesty's Government consent to the levy of additional dues for the lights in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 18.

*Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.**—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 72. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 18, 1903.

ON the receipt on the 14th instant of your Lordship's despatch No. 52, Commercial, of the 9th May, I again spoke to M. Constans on the subject of the delay in putting into operation the new lights in the Red Sea.

His Excellency said that, after our last conversation, he had seen M. Garnier, the Director of the "Administration des Phares," and that the latter was now in favour of displaying the lights without further delay, leaving the differences with the Porte for subsequent settlement.

At the same time I instructed Mr. Block to make fresh representations to the Grand Vizier, and to inform his Highness that His Majesty's Government could not agree to any extra tax upon British shipping, and were urgent in their demand that the lights should be put into operation at once.

Mr. Block reported to me yesterday the result of his conversation with the Grand Vizier. His Highness stated that the "Administration des Phares" maintain their claim for payment of the expenses of keeping up the lights, and that the Porte are unable to provide £T. 12,000 per annum for this purpose. The Grand Vizier added that he still adhered to his suggestion to the effect that British navigation should consent to the payment of a small surtax to meet these expenses, and asked that I should again appeal to your Lordship on the subject.

I trust that the French Ambassador's intervention may, as he told me, remove the immediate difficulty, and lead to the four lights in question being put into operation; but, if this takes place, it will be important to provide against their discontinuance at some future period, which, as pointed out by the Merchant Service Guild, constitutes a greater danger to shipping than if they had never existed.

I venture to suggest, therefore, that, if possible, pressure should be brought to bear upon the central office of the "Administration des Phares" in Paris, with a view to obtaining a promise that they will settle their differences with the Turkish Government by other means than by extinguishing the lights when they have once been displayed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

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* Copy to Paris, No. 74, Commercial, June 16, 1903. Copy to Board of Trade, June 16, 1903.

No. 19.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 26, 1903.

Sir James Fergusson,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any information has been received in regard to the lighting of the new lighthouses at the southern end of the Red Sea, and if he can state what is the cause of the delay.

Answer.

I have nothing to add to the answer returned to the question asked by the honourable Member for Whitehaven on the 11th instant, in which the cause of delay was explained.

No. 20.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 15.)*

(No. 78. Commercial.)

Therapia, June , 1903.

My Lord,

I HAVE thought it as well to inform the Sublime Porte of the decision taken by His Majesty's Government which your Lordship was so good as to communicate to me in your despatch No. 59, Commercial, of the 20th ultimo, that in no circumstances will they consent to the levy of additional light dues on British shipping in order to meet the cost of maintaining and working the four new lighthouses recently erected on the Arabian coast of the Red Sea, and I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the *note verbale* in which I have conveyed that decision to the Ottoman Government.

As regards the delay in putting these lighthouses into operation, I spoke to the French Ambassador again on the subject yesterday. M. Constans promised to write to M. Vauréal, the Director of the "Administration des Phares," urging him to light them at once, leaving the question of the settlement of accounts between the Company and the Imperial Ottoman Government for subsequent discussion. He would also inform him that I had hinted that, if the delay were prolonged, His Majesty's Government might be forced to reconsider the whole question and possibly take other measures for the lighting of the Red Sea coast.

I hear that the "Administration des Phares" intends to approach His Majesty's Government directly on the subject, and, if they do so, I trust that their proposal that British shipping should contribute to the cost of lighting of the lighthouses will be sternly rejected, as I have assured them would be the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Note verbale communicated by Sir N. O'Conor to Ottoman Government.

THE Sublime Porte is aware that the Imperial Ottoman Government has on more than one occasion given to His Majesty's Embassy formal assurances that no additional dues would be imposed upon shipping in respect of the four new lights recently constructed in the [illegible]. These [illegible] have been communicated to His Majesty's Government, who have now learnt with great surprise that the Ottoman Government is desirous of imposing a [illegible] shipping in these waters, on the ground of the heavy expenses which the maintenance of the new lights will entail upon them.

His Majesty's Embassy is instructed to remind the Sublime Porte of its previous assurances, and to state that His Majesty's Government cannot under any circumstances, consent to any further [illegible] the [illegible] of heavy light dues.

* Copy to Board of Trade, June 15, 1903.

Further, it is understood that the four lights in question, though already completed, are not yet working, and that the want of these lights is exposing shipping to considerable danger. In view of the magnitude of British shipping interests in the Red Sea, His Majesty's Embassy begs to express the hope that the Sublime Porte will cause orders to be sent without delay for lighting and putting into operation the lights in question, as, failing such orders, His Majesty's Embassy will be obliged to report the matter to His Majesty's Government, who will then take such action as they may consider necessary in the interests of British navigation.

Therapia, June 3, 1903.

No. 21.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 7.)*

(No. 32. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Therapia, July 3, 1903.

MY despatch No. 78, Commercial, of the 5th June.

The "Administration des Phares" has been instructed by the head office in Paris to light the Red Sea lighthouses, and have informed the Ottoman Government.

I am now about to press the Porte to make necessary notifications in order to give effect to this decision as quickly as possible.

The Ottoman Commissioner on the "Administration des Phares" here asserts that, when in London about four years ago, the Board of Trade agreed to allow British shipping to pay increased dues for the maintenance of these lights.

Is this so?

No. 22.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.†—(Received July 11.)

Board of Trade, July 10, 1903.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, transmitting copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Representative at Constantinople in which Sir N. O'Conor inquires whether it is true, as asserted by the Ottoman Commissioner on the "Administration des Phares," that when the Commissioner was in London about four years ago, this Board agreed to allow British shipping to pay increased dues for the maintenance of the Red Sea lights.

In reply I am to request that you will state to the Marquess of Lansdowne that, so far as the Board of Trade are aware, there is no foundation whatever for the assertion made by the Ottoman Commissioner, as the Board have always been strongly opposed to the imposition of dues for the lights in question, and I am to refer his Lordship to the letter addressed to the Foreign Office by this Department on the 24th August, 1899, in which the Board most emphatically protested against the proposal to levy dues, more especially in view of the intimation made to Sir N. O'Conor in May of that year that no fresh dues would be levied in respect of the new lighthouses.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. W. PELHAM.

No. 23.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 10. Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, July 11, 1903.

YOUR telegram No. 32, Commercial, of the 3rd July.

Board of Trade state that there is no foundation to the assertion of the Ottoman Commissioner.

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* Copy to Board of Trade, July 7, 1903.

† Copy to Cairo, No. 11, Commercial, August 28, 1903.

No. 24.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 20.)*

(No. 92. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 14, 1903.

UPON receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 10, Commercial, of the 11th instant, I lost no time in telling the Porte that the statement to the effect that the Board of Trade had informed the Ottoman Delegate on the "Administration des Phares," when he was in London about four years ago, that they were ready to consent to additional shipping dues on account of the maintenance of the lighthouses to be constructed in the Red Sea was incorrect.

At the same time I explained to Tewfik Pasha that as the central "Administration des Phares" in Paris had agreed to light the lighthouses at once, reserving for subsequent settlement the pecuniary differences between the Porte and the Company, and as they had duly informed the Ottoman Government of this decision, His Majesty's Government expected the Porte to issue without delay the usual notice to navigation that the lighthouses would be put into operation at an early and fixed date.

Tewfik Pasha promised to give his attention to the matter, and I will endeavour to see that he does so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 25.

Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom to Foreign Office.†—(Received July 23.)

5, *Whittington Avenue, Leadenhall Street, London,*
Sir, *July* 22, 1903.

I AM directed by the Executive Council of this Chamber to respectfully express to the Foreign Office their great regret at the long delay which is taking place in the lighting of the four new lighthouses in the Red Sea.

My Council understand that the lighthouses in question were experimentally lighted so far back as six months ago, but that, in consequence of some disputes between (they presume) the Turkish Government and the French contractors for the erection of the lighthouses, they are not, as yet, lighted.

As it is most important, in the interests of the safe navigation of the Red Sea by the large number of valuable British passenger steamers which are constantly passing up and down the Red Sea, that these lighthouses should be immediately made use of, my Council instruct me to express the hope that the best efforts of His Majesty's Government will be exercised in the proper quarters so as to secure, as speedily as possible, this most desirable object.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. H. COOKE,
Secretary.

No. 26.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1903.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 23rd July, on the subject of the erection of the new lighthouses which have been erected in the Red Sea, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that M. Pierre de Vauréal, the General Manager of the Ottoman Lighthouses, called recently at this Office to discuss the matter.

* Copy to Board of Trade, July 23, 1903.
† Copy to Constantinople, No. 77 Commercial, August 8, 1903.

M. de Vauréal urged that His Majesty's Government should consent to the levying of a moderate due for the maintenance of the lights, and left the inclosed papers, in which it is stated that Sir T. Sutherland and other ship-owners are ready to concur in the suggestion.

Lord Lansdowne would be glad to be favoured with any observations the Board may have to offer on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 27.

*Foreign Office to Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, on the subject of the lighting of the four new lighthouses in the Red Sea, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has quite recently been in communication with the Turkish Government in regard to the present position of the question.

Sir N. O'Conor is making every endeavour to arrange that the lighthouses should be put into operation without further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 28.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 21.)

Sir, *India Office, August* 20, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th December, 1902, I am directed to forward copy of papers received from the Government of India, and to inquire whether any further information has been received or can be obtained regarding the new Turkish lights in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Government of India to India Office.

Sir, *Simla, July* 30, 1903.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with your letter dated the 1st January last, regarding the new Turkish lighthouses in the Red Sea, I am directed to forward a copy of the letters and to inquire whether any further information has since been received from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as to the date from which the new lights are to be put into use.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. A. MANT,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

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* Copy to Constantinople, No. 77, Commercial, August 8, 1903.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

Sir, *Bombay Castle, July* 13, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter dated the 8th January last, I am directed to forward, for such action as the Government of India may deem necessary, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, dated the 3rd instant, regarding the need for the early exhibition of the lights at Jebel Tir, Centre Peak, Abu Ail, and Mokha, in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. M. T. JACKSON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Inclosure 3 in No. 28.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce to Government of Bombay.

Sir, *Bombay, July* 3, 1903.

UNDER the instructions of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government a paragraph which appeared on p. 3 of the "Times" of India of the 1st July, stating that the master of the steam-ship "Arabia," of the Anchor Line, on arrival, reports that the lights on Jebel Tir, Centre Peak, Abu Ail, and Mokha are not yet showing.

In view of the continued danger to shipping arising from the absence of these lights, the Committee hope they may not be considered unduly importunate if they renew the representations they have repeatedly made on this subject, and beg that Government will not cease from exerting every effort to obtain the earliest possible exhibition of the lights in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. NOEL PATON,
Secretary.

Inclosure 4 in No. 28.

Government of Bengal to Government of India.

Sir, *Calcutta, July* 18, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter dated the 8th January last, on the subject of the construction of lighthouses in the Red Sea, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the inclosed copy of a letter dated the 8th instant, from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, on the subject, and to request that the Government of India may be pleased to state whether any further information has been received.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. A. INGLIS,
Officiating Secretary.

Inclosure 5 in No. 28.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce to Government of Bengal.

Bengal, July 8, 1903.

I AM directed by the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to advert to previous correspondence ending with my letter of the 22nd January, 1903, with reference to the construction of new lighthouses in the Red Sea.

2. In the inclosure to your letter of the 16th January, it was stated that after certain formalities had been completed the new lighthouses would commence working. Quite recently, however, the Calcutta Marine Insurance Agents' Association has pointed out to the Committee that so far the lighthouses have remained unlighted; and that they are therefore useless for practical purposes.

3. I am to ask if the Committee can be favoured with any information as to the reason for this delay, as presumably the formalities referred to have been by this time completed.

The Committee feel that they need not again emphasize the importance of the matter to all concerned in the navigation of the Red Sea. But they trust that Government will endeavour to take such action as may be possible in order that the lighthouses may commence working with the least avoidable delay.

No. 29.

Memorandum as to present position of Question of Lighthouses in the Red Sea at Jebel Tir, Centre Peak, Abu Ail, and Mokha, August 22, 1903.*

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reported on the 24th December, 1902, that the works were complete.

The delay in putting them into operation was caused by a dispute between the "Administration des Phares" and the Turkish Government as to certain items for expenses of construction, and of the European workmen engaged therein.

The Turkish Government asserted that the expenses of maintenance would amount to 12,000*l* per annum, and contemplated asking the consent of the Powers to the imposition of a small light toll of 5 paras per ton, which would nearly produce the sum required. They stated that the Board of Trade had, some four years [illegible] reed to such an additional tax.

His Majesty's Government informed the Turkish Government that no such promise had ever been made, and that under no circumstances would they agree to the levy of additional dues.

In the meanwhile, Sir N. O'Conor has obtained a promise from the French Ambassador at Constantinople that he would use his influence with the "Administration des Phares" to commence the lighting at once, leaving the account in dispute with the Turkish Government for subsequent settlement.

His Excellency reported on the 3rd July that the head offices in Paris had given instructions to the "Administration des Phares" in the above sense, and that the lights were to be put into operation at once.

The Turkish Government were officially informed of the above, and urged to issue without delay the usual notice to navigation that the lighthouses would be lit at an early and fixed date.

Tewfik Pasha promised that the matter should have his immediate attention, and His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will endeavour to see that he carries out his undertaking.

No. 30.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.†—(*Received August* 2[illegible])

Sir, *Board of Trade, August* 25, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, in which you state that the General Manager of the Ottoman Lighthouses, in a recent interview at the Foreign Office, urged that His Majesty's Government should consent to the levying of a due for the maintenance of the new lights recently erected in the Red Sea, I am directed by the Board of Trade to request that you will state to the Marquess of Lansdowne that the Board see no reason to depart from the attitude hitherto adopted in opposing the imposition of any such due. In connection with this, I am to refer you to the letter from this Department dated the 16th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. W. P. BLOMEFIELD.

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* Copy to India, Office, August 26, 1903.
† Copy to Constantinople, No. 54, Commercial, and Cairo, No. 41, Commercial, August 28, 1903.

No. 31.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 9.)*

(No. 109. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September 4, 1903.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 84, Commercial, of the 28th August, transmitting correspondence with the Board of Trade as to the maintenance of lights recently erected in the Red Sea, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Vauréal, Manager of the Lighthouse Administration, called on me about a week ago. He informed me that he had come to an arrangement with the Ottoman Government, and that the four Red Sea lighthouses would be put into operation on the 1st October. A notice to mariners was about to be issued to this effect. He said that, as the Company had done so much for the lighting of the Turkish coast and largely increased the number of lighthouses, while reducing the tax paid by foreign shipping, he hoped that His Majesty's Government would not persist in refusing to bear a share of the expenses incurred in maintaining these new lights. He proposed later on to return to London in the hope of continuing his negotiations with the Board of Trade.

I said I was imperfectly acquainted with the general question, but that I could vouch that the Ottoman Government had assured me that no extra charge would be made on British shipping for these four lighthouses.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 32.

Mr. Findlay to the Marquess of Lansdowne.†—(Received September 21.)

(No. 54. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Alexandria, September 13, 1903.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a Memorandum by Commander Gedge, R.N., Acting Controller-General of the Egyptian "Administration des Phares et Ports," to whom I had referred your Lordship's despatch No. 41, Commercial, and the accompanying correspondence relating to the new lighthouses which have been erected in the Red Sea.

Commander Gedge is of opinion that it is urgently advisable that some arrangement should be made to insure these new lights being lit and properly kept up.

He states that the advantages to navigation, and especially to the great volume of British shipping passing through the Red Sea, would be worth the cost of attendance and upkeep, which he estimates at 9,000*l.* per annum for these four new lights.

On the other hand, if the new lights are only occasionally lit, as in Commander Gedge's experience has often been the case with other lights in the Red Sea under Turkish management, they might prove more dangerous to vessels depending on them for guidance than if they were never lit at all.

Commander Gedge believes the lighthouses to have been well constructed, and to have been handed over to the Turkish Government in first-class order; but they will necessarily deteriorate if they remain unused and without proper attendance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE C. FINDLAY.

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* Copy to Board of Trade, September 11; also to Cairo, No. 16, Commercial, September 11, 1903.
† Copy to Board of Trade, September 25, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Commander Gedge to Mr. Findlay.

Administration des Phares et Ports,

Sir, *Alexandria, September 5, 1903.*

WITH regard to the new lights placed by the Turkish Government in the Red Sea, I have the honour to make the following observations:—

1. I see no reason why a small due should not be paid, especially as the principal steam-ship Companies have no objection.

2. That if this due is levied, it ought to be on all ships using the lights, and not on British ships only. I give a rough account of expenses incurred for lighting, &c.

3. The lights being fixed in most important places makes it absolutely necessary to have dependable men in them, and to insure this, fairly good salaries will have to be paid. I venture to suggest that the arrangements that exist in the Egyptian lights in the Red Sea would apply equally well to these Turkish lights.

4. The average cost of a Red Sea light is about 1,000*l.* a-year.

The cost of the tender which visits the lights every three months, taking reliefs, provisions, stores, &c., is about 5,000*l.* a-year; total, 9,000*l.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT J. GEDGE,
Acting Controller-General.

No. 33.

Liverpool Underwriters' Association to Foreign Office.—(Received November 21.)*

Sir, *Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, November 20, 1903.*

I AM directed by the Committee for managing the affairs of this Association to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the fact that, although the new lighthouses in the southern portion of the Red Sea have been completed for some time, they still remain unlighted.

I am to add that my Committee will be most grateful if the Secretary of State will kindly see his way to make fresh representations to the Turkish Government in favour of the lights being speedily brought into operation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. A. BELLEW, *Secretary.*

No. 34.

Merchant Service Guild to the Marquess of Lansdowne.†—(Received November 23.)

My Lord, *The Don Chambers, Liverpool, November 21, 1903.*

I AM directed to respectfully inform you that, in regard to previous correspondence which has ensued with your Lordship on the subject of the Red Sea lights, the Guild have received a communication dated the 26th ultimo from Captain F. Paton, of the British steamer "Turkistan," who, in the course of his letter, makes use of the following remarks:—

"Passing the islands of Jebel Teir and Centre Peak during the night and finding that the lighthouses there, as well as those at Abou Ail and Mocha, are still unlighted, I thought I would write to you on the subject. It is now considerably over a year since the French contractors finished and tried the lights, and yet the Turkish authorities are not working them, and I do not believe they ever will do so. The only chance of their being properly worked would be for the Indian Government to take them over, or to farm them for the Turks, making Aden or Perim the depôt. Cannot you do something in the matter, as these lights would be a great boon to voyagers in the Red Sea?"

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* Copy to Constantinople, No. 114, Commercial, November 27; Association informed November 27, 1903.
† Copy to Constantinople, No. 114, Commercial, November 27; Guild informed November 27, 1903.

Knowing the kind interest you have evinced in this important matter, the Guild earnestly trust that you may be pleased to cause further inquiry to be made, as they had understood that the new lights in the Red Sea were to be regularly displayed some little time ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN G. MOORE,
Secretary.

No. 35.

Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom to Foreign Office.—(Received November 25.)*

5, *Whittington Avenue, Leadenhall Street, London,*
Sir, *November* 24, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I laid your letter of the 3rd August, upon the subject of non-lighting of the four new lights in the Red Sea, before the Executive Council of this Chamber, at their meeting on the 12th instant, when I was directed to thank you for the same.

I was at the same time instructed to state to you that, as according to the latest information in possession of this Chamber, the four new lighthouses in the Red Sea are still unlighted, and, as the matter is one which seriously affects the safety of life and property on board of the many valuable mail and passenger vessels which are constantly passing up and down the Red Sea, my Council would be much obliged if His Majesty's Government would strongly press the Turkish Government upon this matter with a view to the immediate lighting of the four new lighthouses in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. H. COOKE, *Secretary.*

No. 36.

India Office to Foreign Office.†—(Received December 3.)

Sir, *India Office, December* 2, 1903.

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 109, Commercial, of the 4th September last, copy of which was transmitted to this Office on the 12th September, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward a copy of a telegram from the Government of India, dated the 28th November, in which it is stated that three at least of the four new lights in the Red Sea are reported not to have been lit in October last, and to suggest that, if the report is found to be correct, the Ottoman Government should be urged to bring these important lights into operation with the least possible delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) *November* 28, 1903.

YOUR Revenue [illegible]ary's letter of the 16th September last. The Government of India has been informed that three at least of four new lights in the Red Sea not lit in October last. Board of Trade is said to have given notice that lights would be exhibited from the 1st October last. Chamber of Commerce represent danger to shipping.

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* [illegible] No. 111 [illegible], November 27, Chamber informed, November 27, 1903.
† Copy to Constantinople [illegible] 116, Commercial, December 8, 1903.

No. 37.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 10, 1903.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, on the subject of the new lights in the Red Sea, and to inform you that the matter has already been referred to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 38.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 14.)*

(No. 140. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 8, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 111, Commercial, of the 27th ultimo, forwarding copies of correspondence relative to the new lights in the Red Sea, I have the honour to report that I caused inquiry to be made, and am informed that the Iradé authorizing the lighting of the new lights in question has been issued, although it has not yet been officially communicated to the Lighthouse Administration here by the Ministry of Marine.

I understood, however, that, in order to save time, the Sub-Director of the Administration telegraphed to the Central Administration in Paris, and has been instructed, in reply, to make arrangements for lighting from the 25th instant.

He has promised to furnish me with the usual notice to mariners as soon as he receives official communication of the Iradé, and I shall not fail to forward copies to your Lordship in due course.

The financial questions connected with this matter still remain unsettled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 39.

Foreign Office to Liverpool Underwriters' Association.†

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 16, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reports that an Iradé authorizing the lighting of the new lights in the Red Sea has been issued, but has not yet been officially communicated by the Ministry of Marine to the Lighthouse Administration at Constantinople. It is understood that the Central Administration in Paris have given instructions to make arrangements for lighting from the 25th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

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* Copy to India Office, December 16, to Board of Trade, December 17, 1903.
† Also to the Merchant Service Guild and Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, December 16, 1903.

No. 40.

*Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.**—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 141. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 11, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 140, Commercial, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a notification which I have received from the "Administration des Phares" describing the new lights in the Red Sea. These lights are to commence working on the 25th instant, and an announcement to that effect appears in the official Turkish press to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Notification by the "Administration des Phares" respecting New Lights in the Red Sea.

AVIS AUX NAVIGATEURS.

Éclairage de la Mer Rouge.

LES navigateurs sont prévenus que les feux ci-après désignés seront éclairés le 25 Décembre, 1903. Les longitudes qui déterminent les positions sont comptées d'après les méridiens des Observatoires de Greenwich et de Paris.

Djebel-Teir.—Sur l'île de ce nom, un feu éclair à éclats simples de cinq secondes en cinq secondes: Latitude, 15° 32′ 30″ nord; longitude, 41° 49′ 15″ est du méridien de Greenwich; longitude, 39° 29′ 15″ est du méridien de Paris; élévation du feu au-dessus du niveau de la mer, 162 mètres; portée, 30 milles.

Zebayer.—Sur l'Ile "Pic Central" du groupe des Iles Zebayer, un feu éclair à éclats triples de dix secondes en dix secondes: Latitude, 15° 01′ 15″ nord; longitude, 42° 09′ 15″ est du méridien de Greenwich; longitude, 39° 49′ 15″ est du méridien de Paris; élévation de feu au-dessus du niveau de la mer, 193 mètres; portée, 30 milles.

Abu-Aïl.—Sur l'Ile "Coin" du groupe des Iles Abu-Aïl, un feu éclair à éclats doubles de dix secondes en dix secondes: Latitude, 14° 04′ 30″ nord; longitude, 42° 49′ 00″ est du méridien de Greenwich; longitude, 40° 29′ 00″ est du méridien de Paris; élévation du feu au-dessus du niveau de la mer, 117 mètres; portée, 25 milles.

Moka.—A côté d'une ancienne fortification sur l'îlot de sable au sud de la rade de Moka, un feu éclair à éclats simples de cinq secondes en cinq seconds: Latitude, 13° 18′ 30″ nord; longitude, 13 13′ 30″ est du méridien de Greenwich; longitude, 10° 53′ 30″ est du méridien de Paris; élévation du feu au-dessus du niveau de la mer, 52 mètres; portée, 22 milles.

Constantinople, le 10 *Décembre*, 1903.

No. 41.

Liverpool Underwriters' Association to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 19.)

Sir, *Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, December* 18, 1903.

I AM directed to acknowledge your communication of the 16th instant, which was duly received, informing me that it is understood arrangements will be made for the lighting of the new lights in the Red Sea from the 25th instant.

I am to add that my Committee are most grateful for the service His Majesty's Ambassador and your Department have from time to time rendered to them in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. A. BELLEW, *Secretary.*

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* Copy to Board of Trade, India Office, Chamber of Shipping, Merchant Service Guild, and Liverpool Underwriters' Association, December 18, 1903.

No. 42.

Merchant Service Guild to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 24.)

My Lord, *The Arcade, Lord Street, Liverpool, December* 23, 1903.

I AM directed to acknowledge your communication of the 18th instant, regarding the new lights in the Red Sea.

The Guild request me to respectfully offer their very sincere thanks for the generous and valuable service you have given them in the matter of instituting the lights in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN G. MOORE,
Secretary.